

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – COURT-APPOINTED NEUTRALS FOR HURRICANE IDA STREAMLINED SETTLEMENT PROCESS

In August 2022, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana approved Case Management Order No. 1 setting forth procedures in Hurricane Ida cases for expedited discovery and to facilitate efficient resolution of these matters through the establishment of a streamlined settlement conference and mediation protocol (the “SSP”). Implementation of the SSP required the appointment by the Court of a panel consisting of 30 independent mediators to mediate what was anticipated to be thousands of civil matters in this District over the coming years.

To date, approximately 3,000 cases have been subject to the Hurricane Ida CMO. Given the approaching deadline to file suit of August 29, 2023, the Court anticipates the filing of a substantial number of lawsuits in the coming 60 days. Accordingly, the Court is preparing to expand the panel of neutrals *if the number of new filings makes such expansion necessary* and is inviting qualified mediators to apply for inclusion on such an expanded panel.

To qualify for appointment as a mediator under the Hurricane Ida CMO:

- (1) A person must have completed a minimum of 40 classroom hours of training in mediation in a course conducted by an individual or organization approved by the MCLE Committee or the ADR Section and must be licensed to practice law in Louisiana for not less than five years. Any previous mediation training approved by the MCLE Committee can be used to satisfy the requirements of this Section; or
- (2) A person must have served as a Louisiana state or federal judge (magistrate, district, appellate, or supreme court) for at least six years and no longer be serving as a judge.

By applying for inclusion on this panel of neutrals, the applicant is confirming that (1) the applicant will abide by a fee structure limiting panel members to charge the parties no more than \$400/hour, (2) will make themselves available for a high volume of Hurricane Ida mediations over the course of the next two years, (3) the applicant possesses the technological capabilities to conduct mediations by remote means if necessary, and (4) that the applicant is conflict-free, *i.e.*, does not currently represent or have plans to represent litigants who are likely to have Hurricane Ida cases.

Interested individuals should apply by letter, including a resume or other statement and/or proof of qualification to the following address, **NO LATER THAN JULY 11, 2023.**

IdaMediatorApps@laed.uscourts.gov